Government have issued advertisements cautioning the public that use of domestic LPG for non-domestic purposes is illegal, dangerous and against national interest. Through these advertisements, cooperation of the general public has also been sought to report any irregularity/malpractice to the OMCs.

The officials of OMCs carry out random checks at distributors godowns, delivery points, as well as en-route to ensure that no pilferage takes place. The distributors of OMCs are under strict instructions to check the weight of cylinders at their godowns before delivery, and only cylinders with the specified weight are to be delivered to the customers. The distributors have also been instructed to ensure that the seals are verified & shown to the customers at the time of delivery. In case any under-weight cylinder is received by the customer, such cylinders are replaced with a fresh refill cylinder without any charges levied by the OMCs.

Adulteration of petroleum products by pump owners

67. SHRI BHAGWATI SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that most of the petrol pumps in Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab and Delhi are running on contract basis;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that irregularity in measurement takes place in those petrol pumps where modern machines have not been installed and adulteration is made in the storage tank in connivance with the tanker drivers;

(c) if so, whether Government has formulated any action plan to prevent it; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) No, Sir. Only 2.7% of the total petrol pumps in the States of Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab and Delhi are running as Company Owned Company Operated (COCOs) on permanent/temporary basis. The operation of such COCOs is carried out through a Labour Contract Agreement.

(b) to (d) Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) undertake regular and surprise inspections of Retail Outlets and also take action under Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG) and Dealership Agreements against those indulging in adulteration and malpractices. MDG provide for termination of dealership in the first instance itself for serious malpractices like adulteration, tampering of seals, and unauthorized fittings/gears in dispensing units.

In spite of above, the possibility of adulteration of petrol/diesel by some unscrupulous elements cannot be ruled out due to huge price difference between petrol/diesel and various adulterants available in the market and the easy miscibility of these products with petrol/diesel.

In order to check adulteration, the Government has taken a number of additional initiatives *viz.*, Automation of Retail Outlets, Third party certification of Retail Outlets, Monitoring of movement of tank trucks through Global Positioning System (GPS), Use of Market in Kerosene, Revision of MDG etc.